

The bush close to the road had been milled some years previously but old logging tracks ran here and there between the tangle of second growth and fallen logs. Kamahi was the most prominent tree remaining after the rimu had been taken out. Down the valleys and further up the ridge the bush was in its original state with rimu, kamahi and rata conspicuous. Miro and matai were present but not in any quantity. Hinau was common. The only beech seen was a clump on an exposed ridge facing north-west and scattered trees, probably red beech, along the upper part of the Akatarawa River below the road. These trees along the river were in full flower.

Several plants were seen that do not grow lower down: thin-barked totara (*Podocarpus hallii*), Prince of Wales's Feather (*Leptopteris superba*), mountain cabbage-tree (*Cordyline indivisa*), stinkwood (*Coprosma foetidissima*), enargea (*E. parviflora*), and native calceolaria (*Jovellana repens*) growing on a wet bank. A blackish-green fern (*Blechnum nigrum*) that only grows in the dampest and shadiest places in the bush was also seen. The road-cuttings were well covered with ferns and other plants, gnaphalium (*G. keriense*) and the small cabbage-tree (*Cordyline banksii*) being particularly abundant on wet banks, the former in flower, the latter in bud; on the drier faces there were a few shrubs of *Senecio kirkii*, and *Blechnum vulcanicum* with its young fronds coloured a beautiful red. *Clematis indivisa* was still in flower; some of the male ones were larger than usual and very striking. Other plants seen flowering were: hangehange (*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*), horopito (*Pseudowintera axillaris*), bush lawyer (*Rubus cissoides*), pigeonwood, wineberry and fuchsia. *Helichrysum bellidioides* occurred in one or two places by the roadside and has probably been introduced by means of wind-blown seed. One of the most interesting discoveries during the day was an unusually large morel (*Morchella*) growing on rotten wood.

The society is grateful to those members who took the party in their cars when the usual lorry transport could not be obtained.

A.P.D.

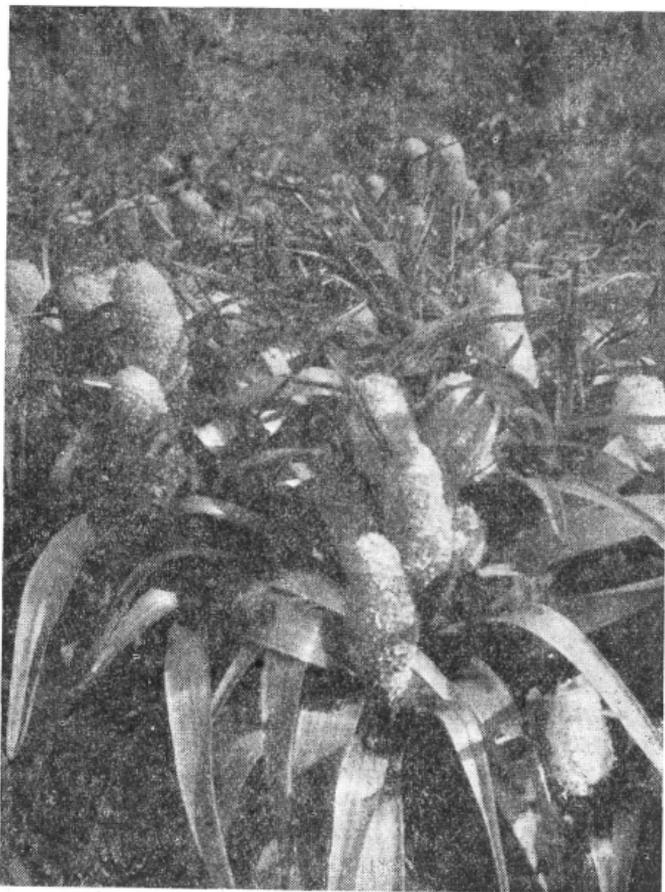
Hypoxis Pusilla

Under Amaryllidaceae Cheeseman lists one genus *Hypoxis* and some of us have long treasured a wish to find this demure and rarely seen relative of the showy *Amaryllis* and *Narcissus*.

In early September, 1948, it fell to my lot to make the rather close acquaintance of part of the vegetation of the Wither Hills, near Blenheim. They are the dry sunny slopes that rise abruptly on the eastern side of the Wairau Plain. The plant cover is thin and discontinuous, mostly of native and introduced danthonias with much annual hair grass in spring. Yet here, on bare patches between the grasses, *Hypoxis* flourished in thousands.

The plant consists of a tuft of stiff narrow leaves less than an inch long, rising from a fibrous-covered corm an eighth of an inch through. In two days of soft rainy weather scarcely an open flower was seen. With sunshine on the third day many starry flowers appeared, usually one in the centre of each plant, raised a little above leaf height on a stiff straight stalk. The perianth is butter yellow, and perhaps a sixth of an inch across. Some plants had almost ripe capsules.

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Chrysobactron (*Bulbinella*) *rossii*, Campbell Is. Dec. 1946.